

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
April 12, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: Reverend Paul Anderson – First Presbyterian Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Miano was absent. All other members were present.
President Hardaway formally welcomed back Councilwoman Uzelac to the Town Council meetings after a brief absence.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

Mr. Spires read a letter from TradeWinds Services requesting to waive permit fees for a construction project. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve with conditions that they will still be responsible to pay inspection fees and that it is a single occupant home. Mr. Spann seconded the motion with conditions. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

President Hardaway acknowledged World Civility Day, April 14, 2016.

President Hardaway announced Support Autism Awareness at Chick-fil-A located at 2385 Southlake Mall on April 14th from 5-7 p.m. A portion of what you spend will be donated to Autism Awareness. He encouraged everyone to attend.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated April 12, 2016. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of March 22, 2016. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mr. Pettit called a Budget & Finance Committee meeting on April 26th at 5:30 p.m. He encouraged all council members, clerk treasurer, and town attorney to attend the meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Spann commented that Public Works is currently in process of collecting the branches and sweeping the streets. Discussion followed.

Mr. Spires provided details regarding the LPA consulting contract for Emergency Vehicle Preemption (EVP) federal project. Traffic signal preemption is a type system that allows the normal operation of traffic lights to be manipulated in the path of an emergency vehicle, halting conflicting traffic and allowing the emergency vehicle right-of-way, to help reduce response times and enhance traffic safety. Federal funding is 90%, the Town of Merrillville is partnering with three other communities for the remaining 10%. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the contract and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Pettit questioned the status of treating the ponds and/or creeks in an effort to control the mosquito population. Mr. Spires stated that we anticipate the start of this project mid-May.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS: Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS: Mrs. Barron had no report.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report. President Hardaway requested that Councilwoman Uzelac and Mr. Spires set up a meeting with Gary Miller of Prompt Medical. They agreed to do so.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Ms. LaMarca referred to Jan Orlich for report. Ms. Orlich presented the Spring/Summer 2016 brochure. She said there is a QR Code printed on the front of the brochures. This code will also be placed at each of the park locations. The QR Code is a machine-readable code consisting of an array of black and white squares, used for storing URLs or other information that can be read by a smartphone. Ms. Orlich provided various Parks Department updates and information related to current projects taking place.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Barron said the Lake County Solid Waste Management recycle centers located in Crown Point & Merrillville will be temporarily closed due to excess dumping of inappropriate materials. They anticipate them to reopen mid-May. Discussion followed. Mr. Lake provided updates regarding various drainage improvement projects. He also mentioned that the latest newsletter article which is in regards to proper disposal of automotive fluids. It provides locations of local places that accept used oil to dispose & recycled at no cost. President Hardaway questioned the status of the West 53rd Court project. Discussion followed.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Ms. LaMarca said that this year Indiana is celebrating its Bicentennial. In this honor, they will be having a torch relight throughout Indiana. The event will be coming to Merrillville in October (date to be determined). She reminded all that the 4th of July parade will be held on July 4th at 12 p.m. The parade will begin at Geisen Funeral Home on Broadway and finish at Merrillville High School.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Mr. Pettit had no report.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Mrs. Barron stated that the CAP Program was a success. She said that the Town of Merrillville won a bench. She asked the Council Members to consider donating this bench to the Heppa Building D as they contributed a large number of caps to the program. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and Mrs. Uzelac seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

President Hardaway said that information from SecureView was passed out to the Council for review. In an effort to reduce blight and maintain property values, the Town of Merrillville will require any windows and/or doors boarded with plywood to be replaced with the polycarbonate materials available from SecureView. Discussion among the Council followed. President Hardaway also asked the Council to make an inventory of any vacant homes in each Ward. The information gathered will be compiled and provided to Code Enforcement for review. Any vacant property 90 days or older are required to be registered with the Town of Merrillville. Further discussion followed regarding the status of various vacant properties.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 16-10: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, creating a Broadway TIF Debt Service Fund (retroactive to 4-7-16). Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 5-1 roll call vote (1 abstention).

Ord. 16-11: An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana to amend the vacant and abandoned building registration and maintenance ordinance. Mr. Bushemi commented as to the specific details laid out within the ordinance. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. Discussion followed. The motion carried by a 5-1 roll call vote (1 abstention).

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 16-06: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville Town Council amending the municipal code to permit enforcement of nuisance violations on real estate and noxious weeds violations by the unsafe buildings hearing authority. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Ms. LaMarca. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion carried by a 5-1 roll call vote (1 abstention).

Ord. 16-07: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, amending ordinance 15-34 and fixing the salaries and pay for employees of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana for the calendar year 2016. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Ms. LaMarca. Public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall. The motion carried by a 5-1 roll call vote (1 abstention).

Ord. 16-09: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Merrillville Fire Territory Cumulative Equipment Fund, of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana for the year 2016 not included in the current budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion carried by a 5-1 roll call vote (1 abstention).

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 16-11: A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, in support of Community Civility Counts Initiative. President Hardaway read Resolution 16-11 into the record. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Abandoned Blighted Properties Committee meeting, April 13, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.
Town Council workshop meeting, April 20, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.
Environmental Resource Committee meeting, April 21, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.
Town Council meeting, April 26, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made.

Richard Hardaway, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer